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**South Carolina Department of Natural
Resources, SCDNR, Boating and
Outboard Motor Natural Disaster
Recovery Plan**

W. Bryan Kyzer, Jr.

March 16th, 2008

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AUG 18 2009

STATE DOCUMENTS

PURPOSE

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SCDNR, is currently making efforts to establish an Agency process or protocol in the event a hurricane would impact South Carolina with customer records being lost during a hurricane. Currently, SCDNR requires customers to produce a considerable amount of paperwork, Titles, Manufacturers Statements of Origin, Bills of Sale, Probate paperwork, etc. to title and register a watercraft or outboard motor in State South Carolina. I would like to establish a plan of action that the DNR Boating Division could follow to specifically address how the Agency would respond to such an event. Such an event could possibly directly impact SCDNR with consideration of the Marine Resource Division located in Charleston, South Carolina.

PROBLEM

Currently, a process/protocol does not exist if South Carolina would experience a hurricane that would affect South Carolina such as Louisiana was affected by hurricane Katrina. A hurricane of Katrina's caliber would directly affect Residents and Non-Residents alike as well as SCDNR Offices and records pertaining to the Agency clientele requesting duplicates of Titles/Registrations and new customers of SCDNR that would potentially lose documentation if a hurricane of this magnitude would hit South Carolina.

METHODOLOGY

I created a survey to mail to the Southeastern Coastal State Agencies with responsibility and accountability of titling and registering boats and outboard motors. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas are targeted states of comparison for this research. Additionally, basic boat titling and registration information has been received with requisites to title boats and outboard motors. For example,

not all states require boats and outboard motors to be titled and registered. The varying requirements from state to state can complicate this process for the various state agencies and ultimately the customer. Additional information to be gathered and reviewed follows:

1. Salvage titles, duplicate titles, duplicate registrations, conditional titles and abandoned watercraft records.
2. Data retention of records on watercraft and outboard motors.
3. Review of hurricane strikes to the Southeastern coastal states.
4. Protocol for Marine Investigations relating to "total loss" circumstance with a boat, an outboard motor or both.

The resulting data will be entered into a chart clearly trending each state based off of respective protocols.

INFORMATION REVIEW

Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas requisites to title watercraft and outboard motors vary with respect to regulation and statute, (*appendixes A and B*).

STATE	WATERCRAFT	OUTBOARD MOTORS
Florida	Title all undocumented vessels, (16' and greater), not exempted be section 328.03, F.S. Effective January 1, 1968	Does not title outboard motors.
Georgia	No titles in Georgia. Registration is required for all mechanically propelled vessels operated on state waters as well as sailboats over 12'.	Does not title outboard motors.
Louisiana	Registration of vessels 3 year period.	Does not title outboard motors.
North Carolina	Titles required as of January 1, 2007 for watercraft 14' and greater.	Does not title outboard motors.
Texas	Titles required on all watercraft exceeding 14', effective January 1, 1976.	All outboard motors must be titled.

(Note : no survey response from Alabama and Mississippi)

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is charged with the administration of the watercraft and outboard motor program for the state. Florida statute requires any undocumented vessel with the Coast Guard 16 feet in length or greater to be titled and registered. Florida does not title and register outboard motors. Florida watercraft registrations are valid for one year expiring on the owner's date of birth with an option to renew biannually. Florida statute does not allow the use of "salvage titles or conditional titles". Florida

statute requires the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to retain watercraft records for 10 years and imaging/microfilm is utilized for record retention. Within the last five years Florida has experienced five hurricanes requiring special measures for watercraft customers. In these hurricane disasters, the Governor of Florida and Florida statute allows the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue "duplicate or replacement" titles for affected areas of disaster. Florida reported an estimated total of 1,063,813 watercraft currently active on state waters. If a watercraft, (vessel), is titled and the title is unavailable, the owner would be required to apply for a duplicate title. If the vessel has not been titled in the State of Florida and the customer does not have proof of ownership, they must obtain a Florida court order to have the title placed in their name.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GDNR, is charged with the administration of the watercraft and outboard motor program for the state. Georgia statute requires any undocumented vessel with the Coast Guard 12 feet in length or greater to be registered, no watercraft or outboard motor titles are issued in Georgia. Georgia watercraft registrations are valid for a three years. GDNR does not issue titles, therefore no "salvage or conditional" titles are issued. GDNR is required by state statute to retain records for 10 years. The record retention requirement is met through boxing original documentation for storage within state Archives. Additionally, GDNR has contracted with Wachovia Bank to scan documentation 1998 to present. The scanned documentation is available to search on a secure Wachovia website. Georgia statute does not provide for "total loss" and with no title issuance in Georgia the customer would apply for a duplicate registration. GDNR reported, (*Appendix A*), actively 344,597 registered watercraft.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LDWF, is charged with the administration of the watercraft and outboard motor program for the state. Louisiana statute

requires any undocumented vessel with the Coast Guard 12 feet in length or greater to be registered, no watercraft or outboard motor titles are issued in Louisiana. Louisiana watercraft registrations are valid for a three years. Louisiana does not issue titles, therefore no "salvage or conditional" titles are issued. Louisiana is required by state statute to retain records indefinitely years. Watercraft registrations are valid for three years and copies of registration renewals are retained for three years. Records retention is met through utilization of microfilm.

Louisiana statute does not provide for "total loss". Watercraft customers are responsible for reporting their loss to local authorities. Louisiana has experienced 4 natural disasters in the last 5 years and reported, (*Appendix A*), actively 316,593 registered watercraft. Louisiana does issue "lost boat" registration certificates if the customer provides a notarized affidavit of loss and a Duplicate fee of \$13.00. LDWF works with the United States Coast Guard, USCG, to resolve issues of dislocated vessels after a natural disaster. LDWF provided USCG and law enforcement agencies with watercraft owner information for watercraft located in right of ways, streets and public property.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, NCWRC, is charged with the administration of the watercraft and outboard motor program for the state. NCWRC requires watercraft titles as of January 1, 2007 for watercraft 14' and greater. NCWRC watercraft registrations are valid for either one year or three years, customer option. North Carolina statute does not provide for "salvage or conditional" titles. NCWRC retains watercraft documentation indefinitely. NCWRC does have the past six years of hard copy documentation stored in addition to a Doc-Star imaging system. In the event of a "total loss" of watercraft, NCWRC requires the customer to contact the NCWRC office to inactivate the watercraft by flagging the watercraft as destroyed. However, NCWRC keeps the watercraft on file indefinitely, even if the watercraft has been destroyed. The reason for this is that if someone attempts to salvage the

watercraft, they will be required to obtain the necessary documentation to register the watercraft. If they are unable to obtain a notarized bill of sale or notarized statement of no interest from the original owner, then they must follow our abandoned watercraft procedures. Keeping destroyed vessel records are vital to helping customers legally follow NCWRC abandoned watercraft procedures since the customers are required to send the previous owner a certified letter. This letter serves as proof that the customer attempted to obtain the necessary documentation from the last registered owner of record. The biggest natural disaster threat to North Carolina are Hurricanes. Over the last 5 years NCWRC reported tropical storms and depressions. However, North Carolina's last major Hurricane strike occurred in 2004, (Hurricane Ivan). During the Hurricane season North Carolina will usually experience 1 to 2 storms of Tropical nature that cause damage to watercraft mostly located near the coastal region, (*Appendix A, NCWRC, Brian Daniels*).

The total number of actively registered vessels in North Carolina is 372,057. NCWRC does not register or title motors of any kind. NCWRC has created a form called the Statement of Lost Title, which the customer must complete, sign, and have notarized. This form can be used to obtain a duplicate title at a cost of \$10. The owner must be the current owner listed on file in the database. If a customer who has lost his/her title sells a vessel then they must give the new owner a notarized bill of sale along with a notarized lost title statement. The NCWRC office works with each of the 100 North Carolina county tax offices regarding watercraft damaged in natural disasters. Customers notify our office of the damage if they decided not to repair the vessel and mark the boat as inactive in our system. Once a vessel is marked as inactive or destroyed the boat will no longer appear on any list of boat owners requested by each county tax office. In turn the county tax offices remind customers contact NCWRC offices once a boat has been destroyed.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is charged with administration of the watercraft and outboard motor program for the state. Texas statute provides all watercraft exceeding 14', effective January 1, 1976 must be titled/registered and outboard motors must be titled. TPWD watercraft registration is valid for two years. TPWD does not issue "salvage or conditional" titles. TPWD is required to maintain records for a period of 10 years. The record retention requirement is met through utilization of electronic imaging. In the last 5 years TPWD responded to hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and Dolly, Gustav and Ike 2008. In addition, Texas experienced two tropical storms for preparedness only. TPWD currently works with 76 counties of 254 to offer titling and registration services. TPWD system programming is needed and planned in the future to expand the system to authorized marine agents/dealers throughout Texas.

A review of hurricane strikes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration yield the following data:

AREA	Category Number					ALL 1,2,3,4,5	MAJOR 3,4,5
	1	2	3	4	5		
U.S. (Texas to Maine)	58	36	47	15	2	158	64
Texas	12	9	9	6	0	36	15
(North)	7	3	3	4	0	17	7
(Central)	2	2	1	1	0	6	2
(South)	3	4	5	1	0	13	6
Louisiana	8	5	8	3	1	25	12
Mississippi	1	1	5	0	1	8	6
Alabama	4	1	5	0	0	10	5
Florida	17	16	17	6	1	57	24
(Northwest)	9	8	7	0	0	24	7
(Northeast)	2	7	0	0	0	9	0
(Southwest)	6	3	6	2	1	18	9
(Southeast)	5	10	7	4	0	26	11

Georgia	1	4	0	0	0	5	0
South Carolina	6	4	2	2	0	14	4
North Carolina	10	4	10	1*	0	25	11

Hurricane direct hits on the mainland U.S. coastline and for individual states 1900-1996 by Saffir/Simpson category, (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/paststate.html>, 2009)

SUMMARY

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SCDNR, Boating Division has researched a process to implement in the event a Hurricane or natural disaster would strike South Carolina. The process would enable SCDNR Boating Division to respond more effectively to our watercraft and outboard motor customers that would be directly impacted from a hurricane similar to Katrina. Damages and losses of watercraft and outboard motors, sensitive documentation and records would require a larger volume administrative effort to assist customers in an efficient response. Requirements for the titling and registration of watercraft and outboard motors vary widely from state to state. Consideration of natural disaster losses, only Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, NCWRC, offer customers who have experienced a total loss the opportunity to apply for a Lost Boat Registration or a Statement of Lost Title, respectively.

With current South Carolina legislation and regulations, SCDNR would not pursue the creation of an Administrative Natural Disaster response for watercraft and outboard motor customers with the exception of establishing and advertising a 1-800 telephone number for customers to call with automated information and customer service assistance.

Appendix A

State completing this survey: Florida

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is committed to Service, Integrity, Courtesy, Professionalism, Innovation and Excellence in all we do. Please let us know how we are doing via our online customer service survey at www.flhsmv.gov.

Your Name, Title & Agency : Vicki Brinkley Senior Highway Safety Specialist

Contact information : vickibrinkley@flhsmv.gov

- 1) What is your state Agency's requirements to Title and Register watercraft and outboard motors?

If the boat is 16 feet or more it requires to be titled and registered. Florida does not title or register outboard motors.

- 2) What is the valid period or cycle of registration of a watercraft with your state Agency, (renewal cycle)?

Renewal is yearly on the owners date of birth with the option of renewing biennially.

- 3) Does your state Agency currently use "Salvage Titles"? If so what are the requirements to apply and receive a Salvage title?

Florida Statutes does not allow for a salvage title on vessels.

- 4) Does your state Agency use "Conditional Titles" ? If so, what are the requirements to apply and receive a Conditional title?

Florida law does not allow for conditional titles.

- 5) What period of time is your state Agency required to retain data on watercraft and outboard motors? (example, South Carolina is required to keep records for 75 years)

10 years

- 6) What type of media does your state Agency use to comply with data retention?
(example, microfilm)

Imaging and microfilm.

- 7) What is your current protocol relating to a "total loss" circumstance relating to a watercraft or outboard motor?

Refer to questions 4.

- 8) During the last five (5) years, what is the frequency of natural disasters that your state Agency has managed from a citizen watercraft and outboard motor equipment respect?

When applicable, the Governor allows the Department of Highway Safety to issue duplicate or replacement titles for affected areas of disaster. This has occurred 5 times within the last 5 years.

- 9) What is the total number of watercraft and outboard motors that are currently titled and registered by your state Agency?

There are an estimated total of 1,063,813 vessels in the State of Florida.

- 10) How does your state Agency handle replacement of sensitive paperwork such as watercraft and outboard motor titles for individuals who have lost the documentation resulting from a natural disaster?

Once the watercraft (vessel) is titled and the title is unavailable, the owner would need to apply for a duplicate title. If the vessel has not been titled in the State of Florida and the customer does not have proof of ownership, they must obtain a Florida court order to have the title placed in their name.

- 11) Was legislation passed for your state Agency to enact your protocol?

Yes.

- 12) What other entities play a role in assisting your state Agency with the volume of customers in natural disaster scenarios, (such as permitted marine dealers, county tax offices and motor vehicle offices)?

County tax collectors and license plate agencies.

Vicki B Brinkley
Senior Highway Safety Specialist
Neil Kirkman Bldg
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
Ph# 850-617-3001
vickibrinkley@flhsmv.gov

Our Mission: Providing Highway Safety and Security through Excellence in Service, Education and Enforcement

State completing this survey: Georgia

Your Name, Title & Agency : Mike England, Captain, Georgia DNR Law Enforcement

Contact information : 2065 US Highway 278, SE
Social Circle, GA 30025
770-918-6414
Mike.England@dnr.state.ga.us

- 1) What is your state Agency's requirements to Title and Register watercraft and outboard motors?

No Titles in Georgia.

Registration is required for all mechanically propelled vessels that are operated on state waters, and all sailboats over 12 feet in length.

- 2) What is the valid period or cycle of registration of a watercraft with your state Agency, (renewal cycle)? **Registrations are good for three (3) years.**

- 3) Does your state Agency currently use "Salvage Titles"? If so what are the requirements to apply and receive a Salvage title? **NO**

- 4) Does your state Agency use "Conditional Titles"? If so, what are the requirements to apply and receive a Conditional title? **NO**

- 5) What period of time is your state Agency required to retain data on watercraft and outboard motors? (example, South Carolina is required to keep records for 75 years)
Ten (10) years.
- 6) What type of media does your state Agency use to comply with data retention? (example, microfilm) **Original documents are boxed and sent to archive. Data from 1998 to present is also scanned and saved by Wachovia Bank, Lockbox. Available to search on a secure Wachovia website.**
- 7) What is your current protocol relating to a "total loss" circumstance relating to a watercraft or outboard motor? **Not defined in law, not usable for what it was intended?**
- 8) During the last five (5) years, what is the frequency of natural disasters that your state Agency has managed from a citizen watercraft and outboard motor equipment respect? **Agency will use it's own equipment. Ocassionally some equipment may be donated to the agency for use during a natural disaster.**
- 9) What is the total number of watercraft and outboard motors that are currently titled and registered by your state Agency? **Just over 344,597 registered vessels. None titled. No motors registered or titled.**
- 10) How does your state Agency handle replacement of sensitive paperwork such as watercraft and outboard motor titles for individuals who have lost the documentation resulting from a natural disaster? **N/A**
- 11) Was legislation passed for your state Agency to enact your protocol? **To register vessels....yes.**
- 12) What other entities play a role in assisting your state Agency with the volume of customers in natural disaster scenarios, (such as permitted marine dealers, county tax offices and motor vehicle offices)? **National Guard, Local Police Agencies, GBI and GSP.**

State completing this survey: Louisiana

Your Name, Title & Agency : Janis Landry, Licensing/Registration Director, LA. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Contact information : Phone: 225-765-2881

P O Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898

-
- 1) What is your state Agency's requirements to Title and Register watercraft and outboard motors?

We current have a 3-year registration and are working to implement titling.

- 2) What is the valid period or cycle of registration of a watercraft with your state Agency, (renewal cycle)?

3-years

- 3) Does your state Agency currently use "Salvage Titles"? If so what are the requirements to apply and receive a Salvage title?

No

- 4) Does your state Agency use "Conditional Titles"? If so, what are the requirements to apply and receive a Conditional title?

No

- 5) What period of time is your state Agency required to retain data on watercraft and outboard motors? (example, South Carolina is required to keep records for 75 years)

Original documents are imaged to be kept indefinitely. Renewals are retained for 3 years.

- 6) What type of media does your state Agency use to comply with data retention? (example, microfilm)

imaging

- 7) What is your current protocol relating to a "total loss" circumstance relating to a watercraft or outboard motor?

The customer is responsible for reporting a loss to their local authorities and/or our office.

- 8) During the last five (5) years, what is the frequency of natural disasters that your state Agency has managed from a citizen watercraft and outboard motor equipment respect?

We have had 4 natural disasters in the past 5 years.

- 9) What is the total number of watercraft and outboard motors that are currently titled and registered by your state Agency?

316,593

- 10) How does your state Agency handle replacement of sensitive paperwork such as watercraft and outboard motor titles for individuals who have lost the documentation resulting from a natural disaster?

For a customer to get lost boat registration certificates, he is required to provide a notarized affidavit of loss and pay a duplicate fee of \$13.00.

- 11) Was legislation passed for your state Agency to enact your protocol?

This is standard procedure. No new legislation was passed.

- 12) What other entities play a role in assisting your state Agency with the volume of customers in natural disaster scenarios, (such as permitted marine dealers, county tax offices and motor vehicle offices)?

We worked closely with USCG to resolve the issues of dislocated vessel after the natural disasters. LDWF provided information to help locate owners of boats located in right of ways, streets, public property, etc.

State completing this survey: North Carolina

Your Name, Title & Agency : North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Contact information : Brian C Daniels CSS Supervisor
Phone # 919-707-0268
1709 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1709

- 1) What is your state Agency's requirements to Title and Register watercraft and outboard motors? North Carolina requires that a customer submits valid proof of ownership to register and title a vessel. Acceptable forms of proof are:

- Dealers Bill of Sale
- Original MSO properly assigned and notarized
- Notarized bill of sale from previous owner (Only if the vessel was not titled)
- Original NC title properly transferred and notarized on the back
- Out of state title if vessel is being transferred into NC by the same owner

- Out of State title properly assigned to the new owner
 - Copy of the out of state registration (Only if coming from a non titling state)
 - Copy of the out of state registration and a notarized bill of sale (again only for non titling states)
 - Sworn Statement of vessel purchase (In rare cases with extenuating circumstances that leaves the customer no other choice. This is most often used for customers registering 20 year Jon boats that have been used on family ponds and have never been registered.
- 2) What is the valid period or cycle of registration of a watercraft with your state Agency, (renewal cycle)? North Carolina customers have 2 choices. They can register or renew a vessel for 1 year or 3 years.
 - 3) Does your state Agency currently use "Salvage Titles"? If so what are the requirements to apply and receive a Salvage title? No, North Carolina does not issue Salvage Titles.
 - 4) Does your state Agency use "Conditional Titles" ? If so, what are the requirements to apply and receive a Conditional title? No, North Carolina does not issue Conditional titles.
 - 5) What period of time is your state Agency required to retain data on watercraft and outboard motors? (example, South Carolina is required to keep records for 75 years) After a thorough search I was unable to find any laws that specify the length of time that we are required to retain data on watercraft. Currently we have vessel registration data that goes as far back as the mid to late seventies and after speaking with our IT department I was told we keep information indefinitely. As for documentation retention, we are required to hold watercraft documents for 3 years. However, with our current imaging system we have documentation retention for the last 6 years.
 - 6) What type of media does your state Agency use to comply with data retention? (example, microfilm) North Carolina uses an imaging system called Doc-Star.
 - 7) What is your current protocol relating to a "total loss" circumstance relating to a watercraft or outboard motor? If a customer has a vessel that is considered a total loss, they must contact our office to inactivate the vessel by marking it as destroyed. However, our office keeps the vessel in its records indefinitely, even if the boat has been destroyed. The reason for this is that if someone attempts to salvage the boat, they will be required to obtain the necessary documentation to register the vessel. If they are unable to obtain a notarized bill of sale or notarized statement of no interest from the original owner, then they must follow our abandoned vessel procedures. Keeping destroyed vessel records are vital to helping customers legally follow our abandoned vessel procedure since they are required to send the previous owner a

certified letter. This letter serves as proof that the customer attempted to obtain the necessary documentation from the last registered owner.

- 8) During the last five (5) years, what is the frequency of natural disasters that your state Agency has managed from a citizen watercraft and outboard motor equipment respect? The biggest natural disaster threat to North Carolina is Hurricanes. Over the last 5 years we have had a handful of tropical storms and depressions. However, our last major Hurricane occurred in 2004(Hurricane Ivan). During the Hurricane season we usually see 1 to 2 storms of Tropical nature that cause damage to vessels mostly located near the coastal region.
- 9) What is the total number of watercraft and outboard motors that are currently titled and registered by your state Agency? The total number of actively registered vessels in North Carolina is 372,057. North Carolina does not register or title motors of any kind.
- 10) How does your state Agency handle replacement of sensitive paperwork such as watercraft and outboard motor titles for individuals who have lost the documentation resulting from a natural disaster? North Carolina has created a form called the Statement of Lost Title, which the customer must complete, sign, and have notarized. This form can be used to obtain a duplicate title at a cost of \$10. The owner must be the current owner listed on file in our Database. If a customer who has lost his title sells a vessel then they must give the new owner a Notarized bill of sale along with a notarized lost title statement.
- 11) Was legislation passed for your state Agency to enact your protocol?
Broad legislation was passed giving our Agency the ability to determine what is and is not acceptable to transfer ownership.
- 12) What other entities play a role in assisting your state Agency with the volume of customers in natural disaster scenarios, (such as permitted marine dealers, county tax offices and motor vehicle offices)? Our office works with each of the 100 tax counties when it comes to vessels damaged in natural disasters. Customers notify our office of the damage if they decided not to repair the vessel and mark the boat as inactive in our system. Once a vessel is marked as inactive/destroyed the boat will no longer show up on any list of boat owners requested by each tax county. In turn the tax counties will assist customers by reminding them to contact our office once a boat has been destroyed.

State completing this survey: Texas

Your Name, Title & Agency : Frances M. Stiles

Manager of Boat Titling, Registration & Marine Licensing
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Contact information : email: frances.stiles@tpwd.state.tx.us
Phone: (512) 389-4860

1. What is your state Agency's requirements to Title and Register watercraft and outboard motors?

TEXAS Phone#: 512-389-4828 or 1-800-262-8755 FAX: 512-389-4900

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/owner/titles_and_registration

TITLE REQUIRED: YES

DATE OF LAW: 1976

LIENS RECORDED: YES

HIN: YES

USCG DOC REGISTRATION: YES effective 2004

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP:

BOATS: Title

MOTORS: Title;

NON-TITLED/NON-REGISTERED BOATS: MSO (if available) and Bill of Sale;

NEW BOATS/MOTORS: MSO and Dealer's Bill of Sale

For other titling situations and scenarios please refer to:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/owner/titles_and_registration/

DETAILS: Outboard motors are titled. All motorboats are registered. All motorized boats, regardless of length; All sailboats 14 feet in length or longer or any sailboat with an auxiliary engine(s); and all internal combustion (gasoline/diesel powered) outboard motors must be titled. Exempted vessels from titling— USCG Documented vessels, all (non-motorized) canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, or rubber rafts (regardless of length) when paddled, poled, or oared and sailboats under 14 feet in length when windblown. Vessels that are currently registered and not titled must be titled when transferred. Sailboats 14 feet and over are be registered and titled.

- 2) What is the valid period or cycle of registration of a watercraft with your state Agency, (renewal cycle)? Two years
- 3) Does your state Agency currently use "Salvage Titles"? If so what are the requirements to apply and receive a Salvage title? No, need legislative change to implement.

- 4) Does your state Agency use "Conditional Titles" ? If so, what are the requirements to apply and receive a Conditional title? No
- 5) What period of time is your state Agency required to retain data on watercraft and outboard motors? (example, South Carolina is required to keep records for 75 years) Ten year retention for transaction applications, electronic records are kept indefinitely, but noted if transferred to another state or USCG documentation.
- 6) What type of media does your state Agency use to comply with data retention? (example, microfilm) Electronic imaging.
- 7) What is your current protocol relating to a "total loss" circumstance relating to a watercraft or outboard motor? Not sure about this question – state law requires owners to notify the agency and the vessel is flagged as no longer active/valid. Ownership information is now available at no cost on the agency's web site for those needing to locate owners of displaced boats.
- 8) During the last five (5) years, what is the frequency of natural disasters that your state Agency has managed from a citizen watercraft and outboard motor equipment respect? Every year, Texas experiences a multitude of flooding, tornadoes, and hurricanes which affect various portions of the State. How would you like this broken down?
- 9) What is the total number of watercraft and outboard motors that are currently titled and registered by your state Agency? 2.1 million are titled. Typically Texas shows just under 600,000 with current registration.
- 10) How does your state Agency handle replacement of sensitive paperwork such as watercraft and outboard motor titles for individuals who have lost the documentation resulting from a natural disaster? Regular process for replacement titles and standard process applies to insurance companies that titles are not required if documentation of the loss is noted.
- 11) Was legislation passed for your state Agency to enact your protocol? Not specifically to natural disasters, otherwise standard requirements are noted in existing laws and changed through legislation.
- 12) What other entities play a role in assisting your state Agency with the volume of customers in natural disaster scenarios, (such as permitted marine dealers, county tax offices and motor vehicle offices)? Currently 76 counties out of 254 total offer titling and registration services. System programming is needed and planned in the future to expand the system to authorized marine agents/dealers.

Appendix B

ALABAMA Phone#: 334-242-3673 FAX: 334-242-0336 or 334-242-3647

www.dcnr.state.al.us/boating/registration.cfm

TITLE REQUIRED: NO

DATE OF LAW: N/A

LIENS RECORDED: NO

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: YES/PLEASURE ONLY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW: N/A

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Registration and Bill of Sale; **NON-REGISTERED BOATS / USED MOTORS:** Bill of Sale and MSO (if available); **NEW BOATS / MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and Dealer's Bill of Sale

DETAILS: All motorboats, sailboats, and boats for hire are required to be registered. Motors are not registered. New owners are provided with a registration certificate and a Bill of Sale.

FLORIDA Phone#: 850-922-9000 or 850-922-2472 FAX: 850-921-1935

www.hsmv.state.fl.us/dmv/faqboat.html

TITLE REQUIRED: YES

DATE OF LAW: 1968

LIENS RECORDED: YES

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: YES

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW: Seller responsible

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Title and Registration or Title; **NON-TITLED / NON-REGISTERED BOATS:** MSO (if available) or Bill of Sale; **NEW BOATS / MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and/or Dealer's Bill of Sale; **USED MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and Bill of Sale

DETAILS: Dealers and repo banks can reassign titles to purchaser in lieu of obtaining titles in their names. All motorized vessels regardless of length and non-motor powered vessels more than 16 feet are required to be titled and registered. Non-motor powered vessels less than 16 feet and federally documented vessels are exempt from being titled and registered.

GEORGIA Phone#: 770-414-3337
<http://www.gobootgeorgia.com/boating.aspx>

TITLE REQUIRED: NO

DATE OF LAW: N/A

LIENS RECORDED:

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: YES

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW:

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Registration and Notarized Bill of Sale or MSO and Notarized Bill of Sale; **NON-REGISTERED BOATS:** Notarized Bill of Sale or MSO; **USED MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and/or Notarized Bill of Sale; **NEW BOATS / MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and Notarized Dealer's Bill of Sale

DETAILS: All motorized vessels and sailboats 12 feet and longer must be registered. Sailboats less than 12 ft. in length and canoes, kayaks, rowboats and rubber rafts that have no mechanical propulsion (i.e., are paddled, poled, oared or windblown) are not registered. GA has an on-line Bill of Sale form.

LOUISIANA Phone#: 225-765-2898 FAX: 225-763-5421
www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/page52.asp

TITLE REQUIRED: NO

DATE OF LAW: 1958 – Registration only

LIENS RECORDED: NO

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: YES, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15, 2008

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW:

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Notarized Bill of Sale signed by the prior owner OR the prior owners Louisiana Boat Registration Certificate with the reassignment of ownership on the reverse side completed and signed by the previous owner; **NON-REGISTERED BOATS / USED MOTORS:** Notarized Bill of Sale and MSO (if available); **NEW BOATS / MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and Dealer's Notarized Bill of Sale

DETAILS: Registration is required for all boats powered by any size motor, and all sailboats 12 feet or greater in length.

MISSISSIPPI Phone#: 601-432-2065 or 228-523-4126 FAX: 601-432-2450

<http://www.boat-ed.com/ms/handbook/register.htm> and

<http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/statelaws/Mississippi.htm>

TITLE REQUIRED: OPTIONAL

DATE OF LAW: July 1, 1998

LIENS RECORDED: YES

HIN:

DOC REGISTRATION: If requested by boat owner. Not required.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW:

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Title and registration or Title; **NON-TITLED:**

Notarized Bill of Sale and Registration and a statement from the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks that no title was issued for the boat; **NON-REGISTERED:** Notarized Bill of Sale and MSO (if available) and a statement from the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks that no title was issued for the boat; **NEW BOATS/ MOTORS:** MSO (if available) and Notarized Dealer's Bill of Sale; **USED MOTORS:** Title or Notarized Bill of Sale and a statement from the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks that no title was issued for the motor.

DETAILS: All boats propelled by machinery and all sailboats have to be registered. Titling a vessel and/or outboard motor in Mississippi is not mandatory. Non-motorized vessels are not required to be registered.

NORTH CAROLINA Phone#: 919-707-0398 or 1-800-628-3773 FAX: 919-707-0293

http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_01_license.htm

TITLE REQUIRED: YES, was optional until January 1, 2007

DATE OF LAW: January 1990 (optional) was revised and took effect January 1, 2007

LIENS RECORDED: YES

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: NO

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW:

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Title and Registration or Title; **NON-TITLED / NON-REGISTERED:** Notarized Bill of Sale and get verification from North Carolina that no title has been issued and MSO (if available); **USED MOTORS:** Notarized Bill of Sale and MSO (if available); **NEW BOATS / MOTORS:** MSO and Dealer's Bill of Sale.

DETAILS: Effective 1/1/07, anyone who is purchasing or transfers a motorized vessel or sailboat 14 feet or longer or who owns a personal watercraft, will be required to title and register the vessel. If titled, registration will be stamped. If registration not available, you should get verification from North Carolina that no title has been issued. North Carolina doesn't register rowboats, canoes, and rafts moved only by oars, paddles, and Ship's lifeboats or dinghies do not need to be registered if they are used only for emergency lifeboat purposes.

SOUTH CAROLINA Phone#: 803-734-3857 FAX: 803-734-4138

www.dnr.sc.gov/boating/registration.html

TITLE REQUIRED: YES

DATE OF LAW: June 8, 1989

LIENS RECORDED: YES

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: NO

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW: Seller responsible

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Title and Registration or Title; **MOTORS:** Title; **NON-TITLED/NON-REGISTERED BOATS and NON-TITLED MOTORS:** Bill of Sale and MSO (if available); **NEW BOATS/MOTORS:** Dealer's Bill of Sale and MSO.

DETAILS: All boats and PWCs must be titled. The only exceptions are boats documented by the U.S. Coast Guard, windsurfers, rowing boats, or paddle boats. You also must obtain a separate title for all outboard motors of five horsepower or greater. All boats are registered except: non-motorized boat, boats documented with the U.S. Coast Guard, boats or PWC with valid registration in another state or country, temporarily used in South Carolina. If the boat is registered then it is also titled and if the boat is titled then it is also registered.

TEXAS Phone#: 512-389-4828 or 1-800-262-8755 FAX: 512-389-4740

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/owner/titles_and_registration

TITLE REQUIRED: YES

DATE OF LAW: 1976

LIENS RECORDED: YES

HIN: YES

DOC REGISTRATION: YES effective 2004

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: YES

PRIOR TO LAW: Seller responsible

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP: BOATS: Title and Registration or Title; **MOTORS:** Title; **NON-TITLED/NON-REGISTERED BOATS:** MSO (if available) and Bill of Sale; **NEW BOATS/MOTORS:** MSO and Dealer's Bill of Sale

DETAILS: Outboard motors exceeding 12 hp are titled. All motorboats are registered. Effective January 1, 1994, all motorboats and all outboard motors must be titled. Also sailboats 14 feet and over in length must be titled. All motorized boats, regardless of length; All sailboats 14 feet in length or longer or any sailboat with an auxiliary engine(s); and all internal combustion (gasoline/diesel powered) outboard motors must be titled. Exempted vessels — USCG Documented vessels, all (non-motorized) canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, or rubber rafts (regardless of length) when paddled, poled, or oared and sailboats under 14 feet in length when windblown. Vessels that are currently registered and not titled must be titled when transferred. Sailboats 14 feet and over will be registered and titled as owners become aware of these requirements. Currently owned untitled outboard motors must be titled when transferred.